

dated the 22nd June, 1913, authorised that department to retain the minor irrigation works also till the Tank Restoration Scheme was finished. On the strength of the above, the Tahsildar was acting as if the minor irrigation works were not handed over to him, while the P. W. D. officers were under the impression that the Irrigation Regulation did not confer on them the power of distributing water from the minor and petty irrigation tanks. Such duality of control was a source of hardship to the owners of adjoining lands.

In order to remove the defects and difficulties pointed out, an Irrigation Board including the Tahsildar, the S. M. P. A. member for the year and 8 elected members returned by all the *pakuthies* except Mekkara, where there was not much of irrigation, should be constituted. Sufficient funds should be placed at the disposal of the board which should be entrusted with the following duties :—

- (1) To settle irrigation disputes arising as a result of their being opposed to *mamool* or on account of interfering with the rights of the adjacent British Indian agriculturists.
- (2) To revise the present estimated amount with reference to each work, to fix the order of urgency and cause each work to be carried out.
- (3) To advise in the matter of the distribution of water.
- (4) To deepen and properly maintain the tanks and collect the ryots' share of the cost of maintenance.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, allow me to congratulate you on the careful study you seem to have given to your subject, the lucid manner in which you have presented the facts of the case and the useful and constructive proposals you have placed before the Government.

MEMBER : Thank you, Sir.

DEWAN : Let me tell you that it was a great pleasure to me to listen to a well-thought-out representation such as yours and it makes the Government's task much easier.

The Government recognise that the position of Shencottah is unique in Travancore and that the conditions there in many ways call for a different treatment as they are different from those prevailing in other parts of the State. Your suggestions that the people of the place should be associated in the selection, and in the manner of application of funds to the restoration of tanks appears to me to be a good one and I shall take early measures to have it considered and see whether we can do anything to give effect to it. It stands to reason that, if the funds allotted are spent in patch work or in undirected efforts or badly selected works, there must necessarily be waste of money. If properly co-ordinated and if the officers of Government can be helped by the people of the place, with their knowledge of the local conditions and requirements I think it will tend in every way towards obtaining better results.

MEMBER : Thank you, Sir.

52. Agricultural needs of the Changanachery taluk, Group I.

MR. NAINAN SOURIYAR (*Member, Changanachery taluk, Group I*) said that it was deplorable that Travancore could not produce a sufficient quantity of food-stuffs to meet the demands of her people. Although an extent of 7,00,000 acres of land was under paddy cultivation in the State, the quantity of paddy produced was not sufficient and more than 2 crores of rupees worth of rice and paddy had annually to be imported from outside. Coconut plantations were not thriving because of a pest prevailing in Kuttanad and other places. In order to minimise the need for importing such large quantities of rice and paddy, it was necessary to adopt measures for increasing the output of paddy in the State.

In Changanachery, there was an extensive area under paddy and the people mainly depended on the produce from those lands. Those lands were of two kinds *viz.*, *virippu* and *mundakan*, and the yield in the latter depended on the quantity of water available from the channels flowing through the lands. Many of the channels had been encroached upon by adjacent land-owners. During rainy seasons, large volumes of water rushed along the narrowed channels causing breaches of bunds of the *mundakan* lands adjoining them. The breaches affected the lands more seriously than the breaches of bunds of *punjabadam* lands. While breaches to the latter affected only the crops for the year, breaches in the former case affected them permanently inasmuch as the lands were covered with thick layers of sand carried by these channels. In view to avoid such breaches, the channels should be widened to their original width as embodied in the Revenue records.

The *chiras* on the sides of the channels should be declared *porambokes*, in order to prevent their enlargement or narrowing and consequent breaches of bunds of adjoining lands.

The conservancy of the irrigation channels was, under the existing arrangement, vested in the Tahsildar. It would be better if the Agricultural Department be also authorised to suggest the widening or improvement of the channels or the cutting of new ones wherever necessary. All work in that direction should be done by the P. W. Department in accordance with schemes prepared by the Agricultural Department.

The member then referred to the Chalakkal *todu* left in an incomplete stage. The *todu* was of immense benefit to a large number of adjoining land-owners and the completion of the work was comparatively easy for the Government. The only obstacle was the blasting of the rocky portions along its course. But the Government could get a substantial price for the rubble obtained by blasting the rocks. The need for the work had been urged upon the Government at previous sessions of the Assembly and at Legislative Council meetings. Provision for completion of the *todu* should therefore be made in the next year's budget.

Other irrigation channels which stood in need of restoration were—

- (1) the channel (6 miles long) flowing under the Veliyattu bridge at the Mamood-Mallappalli road and falling into the Pudupalli *punjabadam* lands;
- (2) the channel (8 miles long) starting from the Tattaradipadam and flowing through Palamattam and Kurumpanadam;
- (3) the channel (5 miles long) in the Matapalli *pakuthi* starting from Kuryanipadam and falling into Vattachapadam;
- (4) the channel (10 miles long) starting from Chelakkombupadam and falling into the Manimala river; and
- (5) the channel (4 miles long) starting from the Champakara Umbidipadam and falling into the Anatti *todu*.

The importance of cattle in an agricultural country was great. Although several veterinary hospitals had been opened, the member would advocate the opening of a hospital in each of the taluks. The veterinary hospitals at Tiruvalla and Kottayam were not of any real benefit to the inhabitants of Changanachery as it was inconvenient to take their cattle 10 or 20 miles away. A veterinary hospital should therefore be opened at Mamood for the benefit of the ryots of Changanachery.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nainan Souriyar, there is an officer at present investigating minor irrigation works round about Changanachery. The Chief Engineer says that he will give instructions to him to see to the investigation of all those minor canals that are now silting up.

As regards the Chalakkal *padam* cutting, some money has already been spent on it. That matter has got to be further examined very carefully before the Government can embark upon heavy expenditure to make deep cuttings.

As regards veterinary hospitals, I am afraid it is not possible to have a veterinary hospital in every town. But there is one less than five miles from Changanachery, at Tiruvalla and there is another at Kottayam, about five miles away. So, really, it is not very inconvenient for the people to go either to Kottayam or to Tiruvalla. But since you specially wish it, the Director of Agriculture will arrange for the Veterinary Inspector either at Tiruvalla or at Kottayam to visit Changanachery more frequently.

The member said that the Chalakkal canal would be useful to the paddy fields in the east and would improve their drainage. He pointed out also that the cutting of the canal would enable the tapioca cultivators on the opposite shore to get the earth required by them besides removing the sand accumulating in the fields.

DEWAN: The necessary investigation will be made.

The member said that the Changanachery town might be five miles away from Kottayam and Tiruvalla but that there were few cattle in the town and that the veterinary hospital was required by the people to the east of Changanachery.

DEWAN: How many miles away is your place from Tiruvalla?

The member said the distance would be twelve miles.

DEWAN: The Director of Agriculture will enquire about it.

53. Department of Industries.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Member, Tricandrum taluk, Group II*) spoke about the inefficient working of the Department of Industries and the desirability of making it really useful to the public. Fond hopes were once centred in the future of that department as tending to enhance the material prosperity of the State. But the working of the department for about a decade had almost frustrated those hopes and people had begun to doubt whether the continuance of the department would be productive of any good whatsoever. The chief duties entrusted to the department were the following :—

- (1) To investigate the possibilities of and organise new industries.
- (2) To start small industries like the manufacture of matches and pencils for purposes of demonstration.
- (3) To investigate the raw materials available in the forests of the State for industrial purposes.
- (4) To revive suitable cottage industries.
- (5) To enlighten the people in regard to industrial matters by lectures, bulletins, etc.
- (6) To help generally in the industrial progress of the State and submit proposals from time to time.

On a careful examination, it would be seen that except the last item on which the people had no reliable information, the department had failed to achieve any of the objects mentioned above. No consistent policy was being adopted by the department. In the year 1095, an essential oil factory and a jaggery factory were established at Ponmudi and Tiruvalla, respectively. Both the factories were found to be unsuccessful ventures and were abolished in 1096 on the recommendation of the Director of Industries. Again, in 1095, a bamboo depôt was opened at Alwaye with the object of encouraging the basket-making industry by the introduction of new models. Another depôt, called the screw-pine depôt, was opened at Mavelikara in the same year to develop the mat-weaving industry and introduce the manufacture of hats, money bags, fancy boxes, etc. Similarly, a weaving depôt was started at Eraniel for imparting instruction to the weavers of the locality in improved methods of weaving and design. All those depôts were abolished in subsequent years having been found to be failures. Besides, there was at one time a Shellac Branch in the Industries Department under the charge of a Shellac Assistant. That too was abolished after a lot of money had been spent over it.

The Director of Industries who knew, while he was the State Geologist, that there were no minerals of economic importance in South Travancore